"protect" us as best he could. Once I was playing ball on the weekend in the school yard and I put a baseball through the window. Mr Skipworth opened the window and gave me proper you know what. But on Monday the report was that the window had been broken by an unidentified kid by an unidentified object. Mr Skipworth had also given me back the ball!

First Avenue was a good school and I was a an average or below average student. It is not by accident none of my report cards are around.

I was slow to mature both physically & mentally. I took Grade 3 & Grade 4 in one year - for what reason I am still at a loss to determine. I can only surmise the Grade 3 class was too large & they wanted the trouble makers out. Anyway out I went. This did not help as I needed the

First Avenue with no particular bad memories or good memories of the School.

I remember paper drives during the War years where we went to homes collecting old newspapers for the War effort. Each person's contribution was measured in inches and everyone had to do their paper soliciting.

I remember my Grade 4 teacher Mrs Kerr also as part of my War effort sending us out on nylon patrol. We were given 6 blocks on Bank Street and had to go into every clothing store to see, per chance, if they had any nylons. This was during school ~~breaks~~ class time and if we did find any nylons, we had to run to tell her at school. We never did find any so I was never able to find out what she would do - dismiss the class & fly to the store or what!

We also marched to Holmwood School to take

The First Avenue Years
- late 1940s to early 1950s

I grew up at 156 First Avenue - a 3 storey apartment building in the Glebe. The Queensway was then a railway / so the streets near it were blue collar. Clemow Powell and Patterson were ('sp'?) for the rich. Carling (now Glebe Avenue) was the dividing line. They from First Avenue to Lansdowne Park was middle class WASP. Our neighbours were the McCanns, the Dreevers, McLeods - no non WASPs, no French Canadians - all the signs & service in English.

Our main entertainment was not the TV but movies and the radio. Bank street had lots of movie houses - starting at the south end was the Strand theatre, the Mayfair, the Glebe, the Rialto, the Imperial, the Odeon, Odeon and the Regent - with the Capital theatre being the biggest & finest. It had winding stairs, a lobby the size of several

velvet curtains.

The movies the (us) kids watched were a lot of Westerns. Gene Autry & Roy Rogers were the cowboy stars then. Every Saturday morning the Glebe theatre at the north corner of Bank and Second had a kids movie club. For 25¢ you saw a serial (stay tuned for part 17) a cartoon next week (always before a movie, God Save The Queen (always before a movie) - then serial and the cartoon - then a movie. After the movie they (the theatre management would organize a game on the theatre stage.

I started collecting airplane pictures because I won 6 of them at a pie eating contest at the Glebe Theatre Club. I was because I got more on me than in me collected that aircraft pictures from moment on.

The Glebe Theatre for the record was also called the Avalon Theatre. In this period the theatre always had a nurse in the audience for some obscure reason. She

was a dear old soul and was more like a mother come disciplinarian. never remember her nursing any one.

The Glebe Theatre along with the Strand and the Imperial - then the Capital all closed their doors when TV arrived or shortly thereafter.

Some tried to stay open by having bingo & movies, (the Strand) or the Glebe that had live entertainment & movies. This was way too expensive & didnt work & one by one they closed.

An interesting sidelight to the Glebe theatre & live entertainment was that one week the Glebe theatre brought in an entertainer who did imitations of famous people. In the audience were two friends of mine who were fast friends to each other - one was Geof Scott & the other Rich Little. Both competed with each other to become good imitators. Rich Little ended up in Hollywood - Geof Scott ended up a Member of Parliament.